

"Friends of Walkden Station" Constitution

1. The group shall be called "Friends of Walkden Station" and will be referred to as "the group" in this document.

2. Aims

The aims of the group are:

- To promote practical environmental enhancement works especially by volunteers for the benefit of the community and train passengers.
- To publicise and raise awareness of the benefits of "green transport plans", the train and attractions of the station area and its environs to increase station "footfall"
- To encourage community involvement and ownership, particularly by young people and schools in conservation, environment and associated education artworks, poetry, competition, etc. at the station and its environs.
- To encourage local businesses to improve their own properties and in sponsoring environmental enhancements at the station area.
- To campaign for improved infrastructure facilities and services.
- To work in Partnership with ALL stakeholders to achieve these aims.
- To promote equal opportunities within the community.

3. To fulfil these aims the group will: -

- Undertake practical environmental, conservation, recycling works and other activities as they see fit.
- Encourage partnerships with other like-minded groups to undertake such works.
- Raise money/funding when necessary including by means of awards, grants and sponsorship for carrying out the aims of the group.
- Publicise their activities and achievements.

4. The area is generally the environs of Walkden Station and the adjacent areas.

5. ACORP

The group shall apply for membership of The Association of Community Rail Partnerships.

6. Membership

- Membership shall be open to anyone interested in taking part in, or supporting, the works of the organisation, irrespective of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, ability and political or religious belief.
- Membership is open to all users of the station.
- A membership roll will be maintained by the Secretary.
- An annual membership fee (amount to be set by annual vote of members) will be collected by Treasurer.

7. Annual General Meetings

The group shall hold an AGM each year to discuss its policy and administration. All members shall be entitled to attend and the meetings shall be fully advertised, especially at Walkden Station.

8. Subscription

There shall be an annual subscription to help pay necessary expenses - to be fixed at a members' meeting at such a rate as is from time to time thought adequate.

9. Group Accounts

Accounts shall be kept by the treasurer, submitted to an independent inspection and approved at a Members meeting.

10. Insurance

The group shall obtain any necessary insurance for volunteers on its projects, and for injuries for third persons, and damage to property.

11. Constitution

This Constitution shall only be altered by consent of a majority of the members of the group.

12. FOWS Meetings

- All members are invited to regular meetings (to be renamed "FOWS Meetings").
- FOWS Meetings are open to all FOWS members and non-members interested in joining the group.
- FOWS Meetings are minuted by the Secretary.

15. Voting Procedure

- Votes are decided by a simple majority of members casting a vote. In the case of a tie, the Chairperson has the casting vote.
- All members have equal voting rights ("one member one vote"), effective from their date of joining FOWS.

16. Committee

- The group's officers form the Committee. The group has three permanent officer posts (Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer), with additional officer posts appointed on an occasional basis by a majority of voting members.
- All officers are appointed by a vote of members at the Annual General Meeting and serve for a term of one year. Individuals may stand for re-election to the same post in consecutive years.
- Committee and sub committees shall be appointed as required to conduct the administration of the group.
- The Committee will be in charge of the day to day running of the group, but will be answerable to meetings of members.

17. Bank Account

The Group shall open a bank account in the name of the "Friends of Walkden Station". Two people will be required to sign cheques on behalf of the group. Signatories must be unrelated and not live in the same household.

18. Political Affiliation

Friends of Walkden Station is a non-political organisation and has no political affiliation.

19. Dissolution

The group may only be dissolved at an Extraordinary General Meeting. At least 14 days written notice should be given, containing the wording of the motion to dissolve. 75% of those present at the meeting are required to vote in favour of dissolution.

20. Distribution of Assets

After discharging all debts and liabilities, all remaining assets shall not be distributed amongst the members of the Group but shall be donated or transferred to another similar voluntary/community group having similar objectives to those of Friends of Walkden Station.